TRAINING MODULE 19 STUDY PLAN

Discharge Reviews; Correction of Military Records

Objective:

To learn how to assist a claimant request a change or upgrade in the character of his or her discharge from service, and how to request other corrections of the military record when necessary.

References:

38 Code of Federal Regulations Part 3, §§ 3.12, 3.360; Part 17, §17.47; Part 21, § 21.7042.

VA Pamphlet 80-06-01, Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents.

Instructions:

Study the assigned reference materials to learn the procedures for requesting review or correction of a claimant's discharge or other military records.

Summary:

EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY 38 CFR §§ 3.360 AND 17.47(A)(2) FOR HEALTH CARE BENEFITS, and 38 CFR § 21.7042(a)(4)(ii) for Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill) education benefits, eligibility for VA benefits in general requires that the claimant or the person on whose service the claim is based have been discharged from service under honorable conditions. With certain exceptions, an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions is binding upon VA for all benefits purposes. If the discharge was less than honorable, VA will determine if the discharge was under other than dishonorable conditions, so long as it was not issued for any of the reasons constituting a statutory bar to benefits, such as a discharge or dismissal by reason of sentence of a general court-martial, or a resignation of an officer for the good of the service, etc. If VA determines that the discharge was issued under other than dishonorable conditions, the claimant is eligible to proceed with his or her claim for benefits. Otherwise, the claim(s) must be denied.

Persons whose discharge from service was under other than honorable conditions may instead choose to apply for a review and upgrade of the discharge by the Service Department. This may be either by a Discharge Review Board or by a Board for Correction of Military Records. Each is briefly described below.

1. Discharge Review Boards:

ACH OF THE ARMED FORCES HAS ESTABLISHED A DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD UNDER provisions of 10 USC 1553 to review upon application the nature and type of discharge issued in a particular case. The Board is empowered to determine whether the discharge or dismissal in an individual case should be changed, corrected, or modified under reasonable standards of regulations and discipline for that branch of service. The Board does not have the authority to reinstate the applicant to service, nor can the Board change reenlistment codes to permit the applicant to return to service. In addition, if the other than honorable discharge was based on having been AWOL for more than 180 days, a recharacterized discharge by the Discharge Review Board is not necessarily binding upon VA; in such cases, VA must still determine whether there were compelling reasons for the person's absence from duty.

A request for review of a discharge is made by submitting DD Form 293, Application for Review of Discharge or Dismissal from the Armed Forces of the United States, to the appropriate discharge review board, at the address listed on the form. (See the sample application on pages 19-4 and 19-5.) The applicant must specify what change or recharacterization is required, and why it is necessary. Supporting documentation, including statements from witnesses, may be submitted either with the application or at any time up to the time the Board meets to consider the application.

The application must be filed not later than 15 years after the discharge or dismissal from service. This time limit may not be waived. If more than 15 years have elapsed since discharge or dismissal, the applicant must file DD Form 149, *Application for Correction of Military Record Under Provisions of Title 10, U.S.C.*, *Section 1552*, with the appropriate Board for Correction of Military Records, as described below.

Discharge Review Boards conduct hearings for applicants to personally plead their cases and provide additional evidence, if desired. All of the Boards hold hearings in Washington, DC. In addition, the Army and the Air Force have traveling review boards, which conduct personal hearings in various cities in each state. The Navy and Marine Corps Boards conduct personal hearings outside Washington, DC only in Arlington, Virginia; Dallas, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; and San Francisco, California. Applicants are entitled to representation of their choice, including representation by a veterans' service organization.

2. Boards for Correction of Military Records:

THE SECRETARY OF EACH OF THE MILITARY SERVICES IS AUTHORIZED UNDER PROVISIONS of 10 USC 1552 to establish a board to correct any military record, for the purpose of correcting an error in the record or to correct an injustice. Correction of a military record may include review of a discharge that was directed by a court-martial. A recharacterization of a discharge by a Board for Correction of Military Records as "honorable" or "general, under honorable conditions" is final and binding on VA for all veterans' benefits purposes.

To apply for correction of a military record, DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record Under Provisions of Title 10, U.S.C., Section 1552, must be filed with the Board at the address listed on the form. See the sample application on pages 19-6 and 19-7.) All supporting documentation, including statements from witnesses, briefs of arguments, or any other evidence, must accompany the application as a complete package. The Board will not accept any additional evidence filed subsequently, except under the most extraordinary circumstances.

The application may be filed by the veteran or former service member, his or her survivors, or a legal representative. The time limit for filing is three years after the discovery of the alleged error or injustice; however, this time limit may be waived or excused if the Board finds that it would be in the interests of justice to do so. It is the applicant's responsibility to explain why the application should be considered despite the delay, and to show why the alleged entry in, or omission from, the record was erroneous or unjust.

Boards for Correction of Military Records do not normally hold personal hearings for the applicants. The Board will review the evidence and documentation submitted and will determine if a hearing would be necessary or appropriate, and if so, will notify the applicant accordingly. If the Board determines that a personal hearing is necessary and appropriate, the hearing will be conducted in Washington, DC.

SAMPLE COPY

APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF DISCHARGE FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

(Please read instructions on Pages 3 and 4 BEFORE completing this application.)

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0004 Expires Aug 31, 2006

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources,

gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing information, including suggestions for reducing the burd that notwithstanding any other provision of law no persor control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR BACK OF THIS PAGE.	en, to the Department of Defe n shall be subject to any pen-	nse, Executive Services and C alty for failing to comply with	ommunications Direct a collection of informa	orate (0704-0004). Respondents should be aware ation if it does not display a currently valid OMB.		
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AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 1553; E.O. 9397. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S): To apply for a ch ROUTINE USE(S): None. DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however, failure Social Security Number is strictly to assure	ange in the characteriz	zation or reason for mili	e processing of t			
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a. BRANCH OF SERVICE (X one) ARMY b. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	MARINE CORPS	c. GRADE/RANK AT DIS		COAST GUARD SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		
Joseph E. Lang		E-1		456-78-9321		
2. DATE OF DISCHARGE OR SEPARATION		RACTERIZATION RECE	IVED (X one) 5.	BOARD ACTION REQUESTED (X one)		
(YYYYMMDD) (If date is more than 15 years ago, submit a DD Form 149)	HONORABLE			CHANGE TO HONORABLE		
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Page 3.)			·			
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(PLEASE SEE ATT			*			
7. (X if applicable) AN APPLICATION V						
AND THIS FORM IS SUBMITTED TO		·	· -			
8. IN SUPPORT OF THIS APPLICATION, T				AS EVIDENCE: (Continue in Item 17.		
If military documents or medical records are re	elevant to your case, pleas	se send copies.)		•		
1) Personal Statement						
2) Letter, American Red Cross, Dated.	January 4 1972					
3) Medical Condition - Physical profile						
9. TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED (X one)	, dated 00/25/17/12					
CONDUCT A RECORD REVIEW OF MY DISC	HARGE BASED ON MY M	ILITARY PERSONNEL FIL	F AND ANY ADDIT	ONAL DOCUMENTATION		
SUBMITTED BY ME. I AND/OR (counsel/repre	esentative) WILL NOT APP	PEAR BEFORE THE BOAR	D.			
I AND/OR (counsel/representative) WISH TO A WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA						
I AND/OR (counsel/representative) WISH TO A (enter city and state)	appear at a hearing <i>a</i> KLAND. CA	T NO EXPENSE TO THE (NOTE: The Na)	GOVERNMENT BEF IVV Discharge Revie	ORE A TRAVELING PANEL CLOSEST TO www.Board.does.not.have.a.traveling.panel.)		
10. a. COUNSEL/REPRESENTATIVE (If any)				UMBER (Include Area Code)		
(See Item 10 of the instructions about coun	sel/representative.)		c. E-MAIL			
			0. 2 1111 112			
d. FAX NUN				IBER (Include Area Code)		
11. APPLICANT MUST SIGN IN ITEM 13a. B	ELOW. If the record in	question is that of a d	leceased or inco	mpetent person, LEGAL PROOF OF		
DEATH OR INCOMPETENCY MUST AC		CATION. If the applicat	ion is signed by	other than the applicant, indicate		
the name (print)		and relationship	· —	below.		
SPOUSE WIDOWER WIDOWER	NEXT OF KIN	LEGAL REPRESENT		R (Specify)		
12a. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT OR PERSON ABOVE (Forward notification of any change In address.) b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code (209) 555-1212						
Joseph			c. E-MAIL			
2703 Pegg Street				ang@myinternet.aaa		
Valley Springs, CA 95300				(Include Area Code) (209) 555-1212		
13. CERTIFICATION. I make the foregoing statements, as part of my claim, with full knowledge of the CASE NUMBER						
penalties involved for willfully making and 1001, provide that an individual sho or both.)	a false statement or c	laim. (U.S. Code, Title 1	18, Sections 287	(Do not write in this space.)		
a. SIGNATURE - REQUIRED (Applicant or person	n in Item 11 above)	b. DATE SIGNED -	REQUIRED			
		(YYYYMMDD)				
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DD FORM 293, MAR 2004	PREVIOUS ED	ITIONS ARE OBSOLET	Ε.	Page 1 of 4 Pages		

14. CONTINUATION OF ITEM 6, ISSUES (If applicable)	CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR O				
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15. CONTINUATION OF ITEM 8, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (If applicable)					
15. CONTINUATION OF THEM 8, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (1) applicate	one)				
16. REMARKS (If applicable)					
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MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESS BELOW.					
ARMY	NAVY AND MARINE CORPS				
Army Review Boards Agency					
Support Division, St. Louis	Naval Council of Personnel Boards 720 Kennon Street, S.E.				
9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5200	Room 309 (NDRB)				
(See http://arba.army.pentagon.mil)	Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023				
AIR FORCE	COAST GUARD				
Air Force Review Boards Agency SAF/MRBR	U.S. Coast Guard Commandant (G-WPM)				
550-C Street West, Suite 40	2100 Second Street, S.W. Room 5500				
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4742	Washington, DC 20593				
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DD FORM 293, MAR 2004

Page 2 of 4 Pages

SAMPLE COPY

APPLICATION FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORD UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 1 0, U.S. CODE, SECTION 1552 (Please read instructions on reverse side BEFORE completing this application.)					,,	Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0003 Expires May 31, 2006	
The pubic reporting burden for this collect gathering and maintaining the data needer information, including suggestions for reduthat notwithstanding any other provision control number.	The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data source gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Execution Services and Communications Directorate (0704-0003). Respondents should be away that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid Of						ctions, searching existing data sources or any other aspect of this collection 4-0003). Respondents should be awar does not display a currently valid OM
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOU ADDRESS ON THE BACK OF TH		RM TO THE ABOVE	ORGA	ANIZATION	N. RETURN COM	PLETED FO	ORM TO THE APPROPRIATE
AUTHORITY: Title 10 US Co	ode 1552 FO 939	PRIVACY AC			JSE(S): None.		
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PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To initiate an application for correction of military record. The form is used by Board members for review of pertinent information in making a determination of relief through correction of a military record. DISCLOSURE: Voluntary: however, failure to provide identification may impede processing of this application. The request for Social Security number is strictly to assure propridentification of the individual and appropriate records.					f this application. The strictly to assure proper		
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b. NAME (Print - Last, First, Middle : LONG, Joseph		PAY GRADE E-8		a. SERVIC	23 945 78	plicable) (456-78-9312
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8. DISCOVERY OF ALLEGED ERROR OR INJUSTICE a. DATE OF DISCOVERY b. IF MORE THAN THREE YEARS SINCE THE ALLEGED ERROR OR INJUSTICE WAS DISCOVERED, STATE WHY THE BOAR							
(YYYYMMDD) SHOULD FIND IT IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION.							
11/05/2003							
IN SUPPORT OF THIS APPLIE records are pertinent to your ca	CATION, I SUBMIT	AS EVIDENCE THE	FOLL	OWING AT	TACHED DOCU	MENTS: (If	military documents or medical
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IN ITEM 12 ABOVE (Forward			OI T	LINGON	c. E-MAIL ADDR		Code) (207) 555 1212
6606 Holly Springs Rd.						N	ONE
Valley Springs, CA 95600					d. FAX NUMBER	(Include Are	, ()
14. 1 MAKE THE FOREGOING STATEMENTS, AS PART OF MY CLAIM, WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE PENALTIES INVOLVED FOR WILLFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT OR CLAIM. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Sections 287 and 100 1, provide that an individual shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.)							
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DDFORM 149, MAY 2003 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE.							

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. All information should be typed or printed. Complete all applicable items. If the item is not applicable, enter "None."
- 2. If space is insufficient on the front of the form, use the "Remarks" box below for additional information or attach an additional sheet.
- 3. List all attachments and enclosures in item 9. Do not send original documents. Send clear, legible copies. Send copies of military documents and orders related to your request, if you have them available. Do not assume that they are all in your military record.
- 4. The applicant must exhaust all administrative remedies, such as corrective procedures and appeals provided in regulations, before applying to the Board of Corrections.
- 5. ITEM 5. State the specific correction of record desired. If possible, identify exactly what document or information in your record you believe to be erroneous or unjust and indicate what correction you want made to the document or information.
- 6. ITEM 6. In order to justify correction of a military record, it is necessary for you to show to the satisfaction of the Board by the evidence that you supply, or it must otherwise satisfactorily appear in the record, that the alleged entry or omission in the record was in error or unjust. Evidence, in addition to documents, may include affidavits or signed testimony of witnesses, executed under oath, and a brief of arguments supporting the application. All evidence not already included in your record must be submitted by you. The responsibility of securing evidence rests with you.
- 7. ITEM 8. U.S. Code, Title 1.0, Section 1552b, provides that no correction may be made unless a request is made within three years after the discovery of the error or injustice, but that the Board may excuse failure to file within three years after discovery if it finds it to be in the interest of justice.
- 8. ITEM 10. Personal appearance before the Board by you and your witnesses or representation by counsel is not required to ensure full and impartial consideration of your application. If the Board determines that a personal appearance is warranted and grants approval, appearance and representation are permitted before the Board at no expense to the government.
- 9. ITEM 11 . Various veterans and service organizations furnish counsel without charge. These organizations prefer that arrangements for representation be made through local posts or chapters.
- 10. ITEM 12. The person whose record correction is being requested must sign the application. If that person is deceased or incompetent to sign, the application may be signed by a spouse, widow, widower, next of kin (son, daughter, mother, father, brother, or sister), or a legal representative that has been given power of attorney. Other persons may be authorized to sign for the applicant. Proof of death, incompetency, or power of attorney must accompany the application. Former spouses may apply in cases of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) issues.
- 11. For detailed information on application and Board procedures, see: Army Regulation 1 5-1 85 and www.arba.army.pentagon.mil; Navy SECNAVINST.5420.193 and www.hq.navy.mil/bcnr/bcnr.htm; Air Force Instruction 36-2603, Air Force Pamphlet 36-2607, and www.arbc.randolph.af.mil/safmibr; Coast Guard Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, Part 52.

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESS BELOW				
ARMY (For Active Duty Personnel) Army Board for Correction of Military Records 1 941 Jefferson Davis Highway, 2nd Floor Arlington, VA 22202-4508 (For Other than Active Duty Personnel) Army Review Boards Agency Support Division, St. Louis 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5200	NAVY AND MARINE CORPS Board for Correction of Naval Records 2 Navy Annex Washington, DC 20370-5100			
AIR FORCE Board for Correction of Air Force Records SAF/MRBR 550-C Street West, Suite 40 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4742	COAST GUARD Board for Correction of Military Records of the Coast Guard (C-60) Room 41 00 Department of Transportation 400 7th St., SW Washington, DC 20590			

DD FORM 149 (BACK), MAY 2003

- Notes -

Study Questions:

Using the assigned references and reading materials, answer the following questions:

- 1. Name the VA benefit that may not be authorized if the veteran's discharge from service was general, under honorable conditions.
 - **a.** Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
 - **b.** Civilian Health and Medical Program, VA (CHAMPVA)
 - c. Veteran's Education Assistance under 38 U.S. Code, Chapter 30 (MGIB)
 - d. Veteran's Group Life Insurance (VGLI)
- Under certain circumstances, VA may still authorize monetary benefits even if a claimant's discharge from service was issued under other than honorable conditions.
 (T/F)
- 3. Which VA benefit may be authorized even if the person's discharge from service was under other than honorable conditions, so long as it was not a bad conduct discharge or for one of the reasons constituting a statutory bar?
 - a. Vocational Rehabilitation
 - **b.** Health care for a service-related disability
 - c. Burial allowance, including plot/interment allowance
 - d. None
- **4.** The absolute time limit for application to a Discharge Review Board for upgrading the character of a discharge is:
 - **a.** Five (5) years after discharge from service.
 - **b.** Ten (10) years after discharge from service.
 - **c.** Fifteen (15) years after discharge from service.
 - **d.** There is no time limit for application to review the character of discharge from service.
- **5.** Even if the Discharge Review Board upgrades the character of a discharge to "General, under honorable conditions," this is not necessarily binding upon VA in all cases.

 (T/F)

- 6. Can a Discharge Review Board order that an applicant be allowed to re-enter service?
 (Y/N)
- 7. VA is required to review any upgraded discharge that was based on periods of absence without leave (AWOL) of 180 days or more, even if the recharacterization was by the Board for Correction of Military Records.
 (T/F)
- **8.** Application for correction of a military record must ordinarily be made not later than three years after the claimed error in the record is discovered. Can this time limit be waived?

 (Y/N)
- 9. On application, a Board for Correction of Military Records will schedule a personal hearing for the applicant to personally plead his or her case.
 (T/F)
- 10. All evidence and documentation in support of an application for correction of a military record, including statements from witnesses and briefs of arguments, must be submitted accompanying the application, or the Board for Correction of Military Records will not accept it.
 (T/F)